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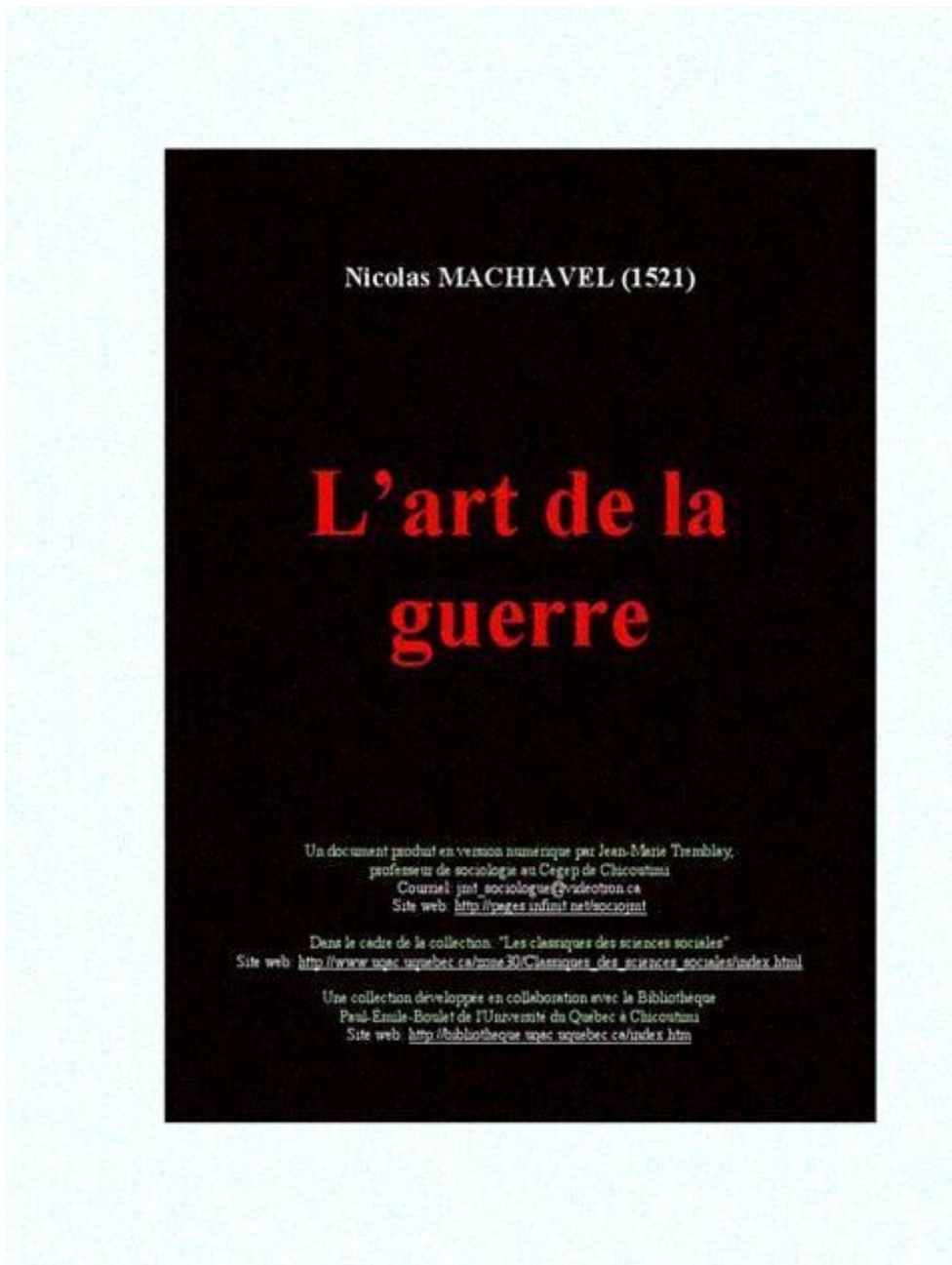
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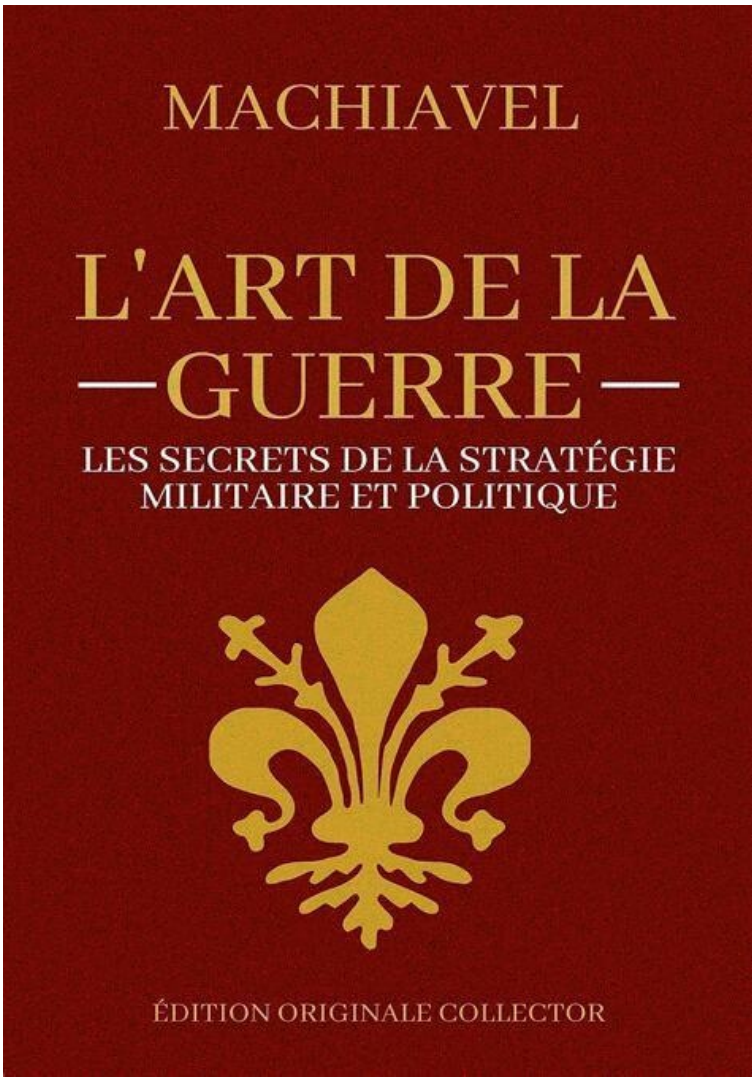
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THE ART OF WAR Preface by NICOLAS MACHIAVEL, citizen and secretary of Florence, to THE ART OF WAR \_\_\_\_\_ To Lorenzo Strozzi [1], a Florentine gentleman.

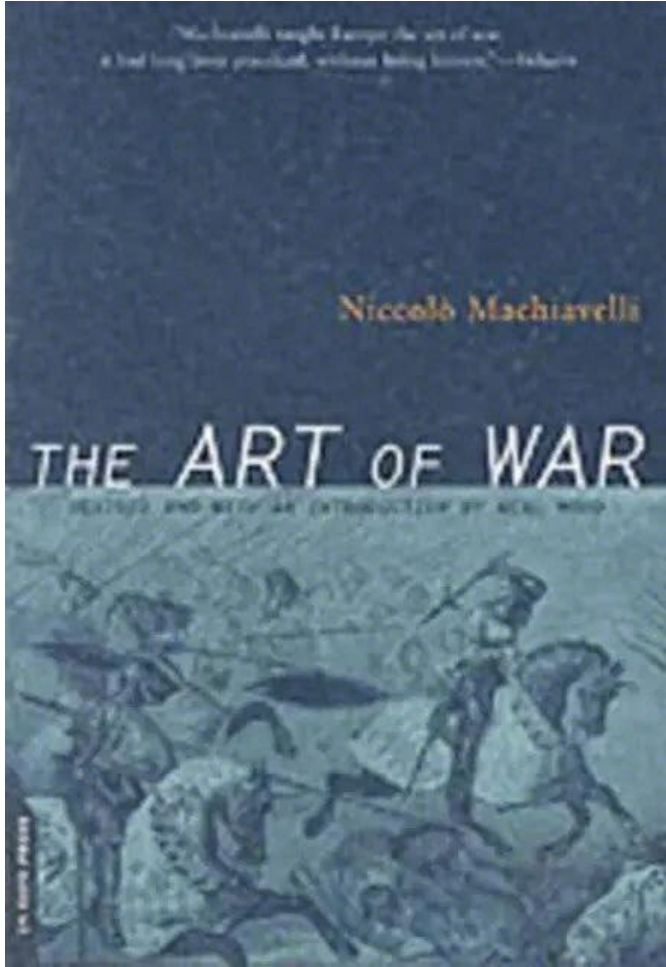
It has been maintained, Lorenzo, and it is still maintained daily that there is nothing that has less connection, nothing that differs more from one another than civilian life and military life. Therefore, someone who takes up arms immediately abandons with the habit, customs, habits, voice, and demeanor of the city. This external appearance cannot be suitable for anyone who wants to be swift and ready to commit any kind of violence; it is impossible to maintain the usages and forms that one judges are effeminate and unfavorable to his new occupations; and can it be decent to conserve the exterior and ordinary language of someone who, with blasphemy and a beard, wants to frighten other men! What happens today makes this opinion very true and this conduct very consistent. But if we consider the political system of the Ancients, we will see that there were no conditions more united than these two, more conformable and closer through mutual benevolence. And indeed, all establishments created for the common advantage of society, all institutions formed to inspire fear of God and the laws would be vain if a public force was not destined to respect them; and when this is well organized, it makes up for the vices of the constitution itself. Without this help, the best-constituted state will eventually dissolve: similar to these magnificent palaces that, brilliant inside with gold and precious stones, lack a roof that defends them from the injuries of time. In ancient times, in republics as well as monarchies, if there was some class of citizens who one sought to inspire with loyalty to the laws, love of peace, and respect for the gods, it was mainly the citizen-soldiers. Who should expect more loyalty from their country than from someone who has promised to die for it? Who should cherish peace more than someone who can suffer most from war? Who should finally respect God more than someone who, every day, exposes himself to a multitude of dangers and needs heaven's help the most? These truths had been well understood by their legislators and generals; therefore, everyone enjoyed celebrating and striving to follow the austere and pure customs of the camps. But military discipline having completely corrupted and entirely strayed from ancient rules, it has resulted in these unfortunate opinions that spread hatred for soldiers and aversion for their trade. As for me, after reflecting on what I have seen and read, it seems to me that it would not be impossible to recall military life to its original institution and restore some of its former virtue.



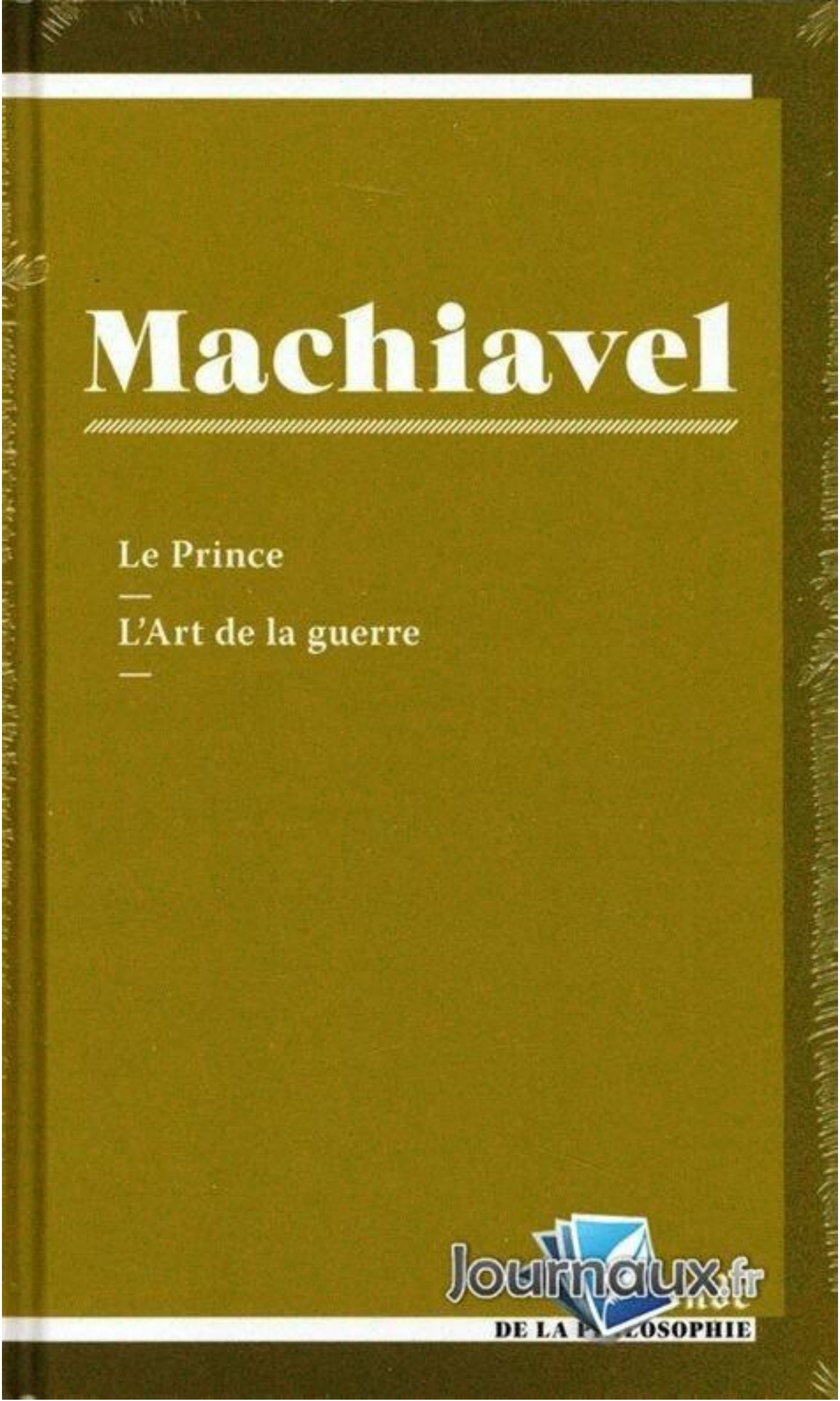
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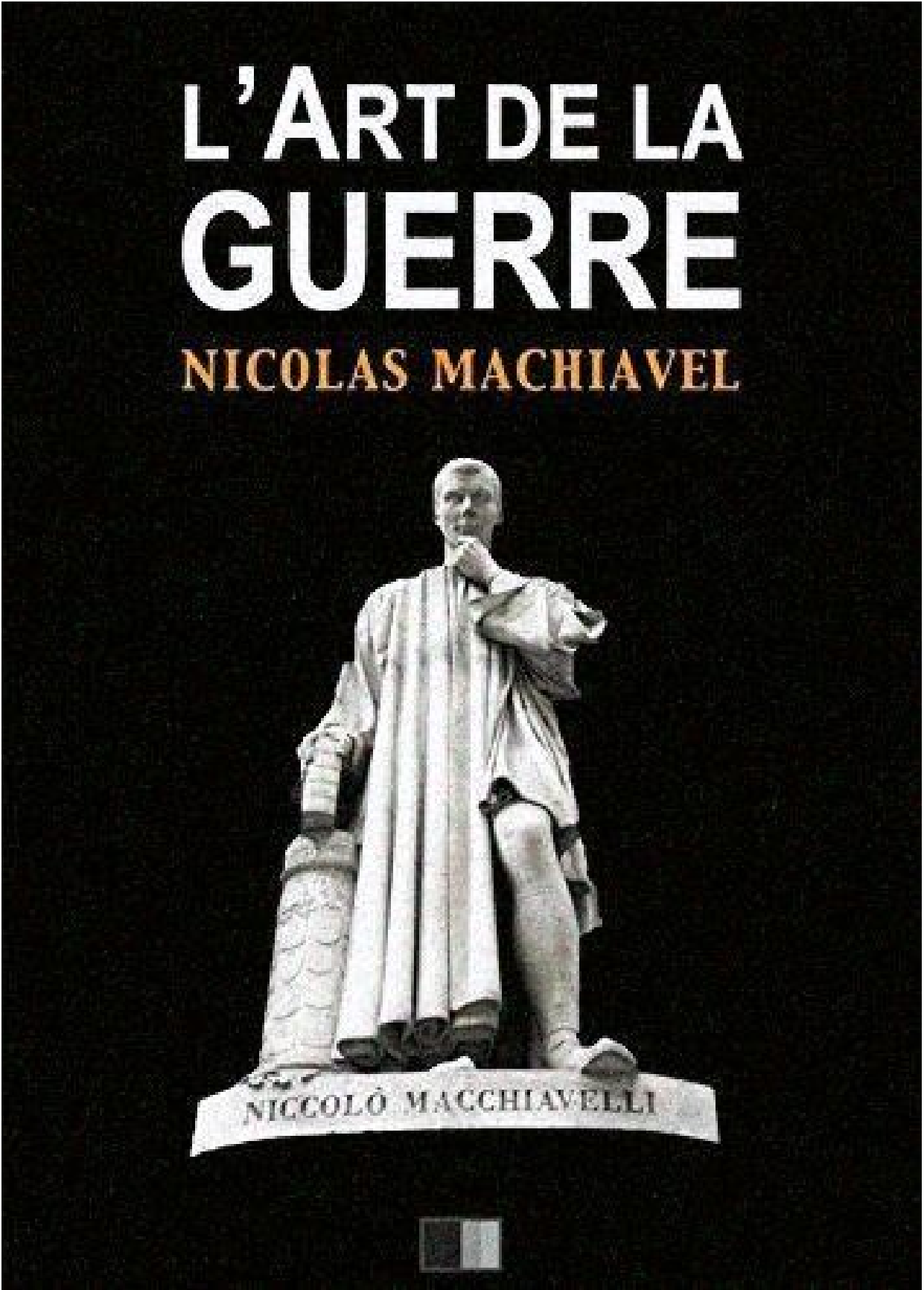
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